

# The Athenian Mercury:

Saturday June 30. 1694.

**Quest. 1.** **A** Motive of Curiosity hath put me upon desiring your Answer to the six Questions underneath, being satisfied your Society is capable of giving me the best Satisfaction I can expect. If the Light of the Moon is borrow'd from the Sun, why are they so differing in Complexion?

**Ans.** Sir, We beg your Pardon, if we tell you, your Curiosity might easily have been satisfied by almost any Body else, for every one that has but a very little Knowledge of Nature, and the System of the World can tell you, that the contrary Question might with the same Reason have been demanded, why the Light of the Sun and Moon are so like in Complexion, the vast distance betwixt 'em, and the inaptitude of the Moon for reflexion of Light, being a gross Earthy Body, would have been an Answer to the last; had the Moon been made of a very fine polish'd hard Metal, the reflection of the Sun's Light from it would have been too glorious and bright for the Eye to have beheld it, and that it is so proper for reflection as it is, may answer yours.

**Quest. 2.** Whether there can be any Natural Cause assign'd for the Change of the Moon?

**Ans.** Yes, the Natural Cause may be thus explained; imagine the Sun in the Center of the World, as it really is, without any other Motion than that upon its own Axis, viz. in about 12 d. 5 h. Suppose also the Moon continually moving about the Earth, since only one half of a Globular Body, as the Moon is, can be enlighten'd at a time, it's evident that when she is betwixt the Earth and the Sun, all the illuminated part of the Moon will be fromwards us, and as it moves obliquely, the more and more that Light is discover'd, 'till it comes behind the Earth, and then we have the advantage of seeing all the enlighten'd side: 'Tis not to be suppos'd here that the Moon must be exactly betwixt us and the Sun, to see no Light at all, but near that, for when that happens, instead of seeing the Light, we should find it eclips'd by the Earth.

**Quest. 3.** Whether there is a World in the Moon, as some have conceived?

**Quest. 4.** If there is no World in the Moon, what may we conceive those dark Spots to be which are apparent in it?

**Ans.** We know of no Body that has been there to give us a satisfactory account, but there's all the probability imaginable to believe it a World like ours; 'tis on Opake gross terrene Body, with an Atmosphere about it as our Earth is; and as for those dark Spots in't, Philosophy would have us conclude 'em to be Seas and great Waters, for Water imbibes the Rays of the Sun, and will not reflect the Light as the Earth does.

**Quest. 5.** Why the Moons Beams do not convey a warmth as the Sun Beams do?

**Ans.** From these Reasons, as we imagine: The first is, the great distance the Moon is from us, and consequently the Rays of the Sun are reflected very weakly: No doubt but were we upon the Moon, we should find the Rays reflect from it all round its Atmosphere, as the Rays of the Sun falling on the Earth reflect a great heat, especially from Walls and sides of Houses; and even as our Culinary Fires having a Brass Pan set behind the Meat whilst roasting do reflect a great Heat back again. The Second Reason may be the Roughness and Porosity of the Moons Body, which is not so apt for Reflexion as if it were Smooth and Close. And last, because of the Globosity of the Moon; for being round, it reflects the Sun's Rays every way, and does not collect 'em so strongly for any one place, as if the Sun were a Plain, or of any other Figure.

**Quest. 6.** Describe by a plain Figure how the Sun takes its Course in Winter to Rise and Set in eight Hours, and in Summer when it hath sixteen Hours time.

**Ans.** Imagine only the Earth, or if you please, to conceive it plainer, imagine the Sun to rise before it's due East, and Setts after due West in the Summer-time, and contrariwise in the Winter, and you will have no need of Figures to resolve your Question.

We shall here insert another Question sent by another Hand.

**Quest. 7.** If the Moon has no innate Light of its own, what is that faint Light that may be seen when the Moon is in the New, as we call it, for all the rest of the Circumference besides the little enlighten'd part has a weak Light?

**Ans.** As that Planet is a Moon to our Earth, so our Earth is as it were a Moon to that Planet, and 'tis the reflexion of the Sun's Light from our Earth upon that Planet which gives it that weak Light you speak of.

**Quest. 8.** "Having sent you three Questions concerning an experiment I tried on a large Fly, and having since tried the same on another, I found matter for another Query, After what manner does the Fly (his Head and Wings being pluckt off) make that buzzing Noise? The truth of which will be obvious to any that shall make the like experiments. This seem'd the most strange to me, therefore I desire you would insert this amongst the others, as soon as you can. I would request all to the Favour of a resolution of the following Queries, with what convenient speed you can, by which you will very much satisfy and extreamly oblige, &c.

**Query,** Why a Person cannot rise from his Seat, unless he first either bend his Body forward, or thrust his Feet backwards?

**Ans.** As for the Prefatory part of your Letter, we shall refer you to what others have said of that Experiment, particularly Mr. Boyle.

Because the Center of Gravity is irregular, the Mechanical Reason depends upon a little Knowledge of the Leaver, which we have not room and leisure here to treat of, because several other things are previous, read Bishop Wilkins, Pardee, Oughtred, or what is best, Dr. Wallis's Mechanicks.

**Quest. 9.** Why leaning on the Elbow and compressing (with the hand) the external Corner of the right Eye, causes the Objects that are before one, appear duplicated?

**Ans.** The Reason why Objects are seen double in a Glass, is from an alteration of the Plain; when the Plain is double, it receives a double Picture, just so the Eye, if any one dare venture to compress it so violently, will no doubt be rais'd up on a Ridge, and make two Plains, and consequently paint two Images on the Retina or Optick Nerve.

**Quest. 10.** Why is it more difficult and hard to carry any thing of a long substance, either on the Shoulder or in the Hand, if held by either extremes, than if sustain'd by the middle of it.

**Ans.** To the Doctrine of the Leaver we must again refer you, every little Proficient in that Science knows all Questions of this Nature.

**Quest. 11.** After what manner is the Power impress'd on a Wedge by a stroke or blow, the force of which doth much exceed any other Strength?

**Ans.** Read Dr. Wallis de Motu.

**Quest. 12.** How comes it to pass that the force of an Arrow or Bullet discharg'd near at hand (when the Impression of that violence whereby they are carried is most fresh and



so in probability the motion as swift) is yet notwithstanding much less than it would be at a greater distance?

Ans. We can't admit the Matter of Fact, and therefore give no Answer for a Cause of what we think is not in Nature.

Quest. 13. Why is a Stone slung from a Sling of greater force and swiftness than if thrown from the hand?

Ans. We refer you to the aforesaid Author, whom if you read and find any doubts, we'll help you; but for teaching you first Principles of common Sciences we desire to be excused from it.

Quest. 14. It is the first time that ever I gave you the Trouble of answering a Question, and I hope that now you will not refuse to answer it; the Question is this, (viz.) Whether or no it is proper for that man to wear a Sword that knows not how to use it? Secondly, whether or no it is not proper for a Tradesman that does understand a Sword to wear it, when he is upon his Pleasure? whether on foot or on Horse-back, though not when about his Business, which is my Desire that you will resolve me?

Ans. We are ready to think if your Query had never came 'twould not have done us and the world much damage, but since it may be of mighty Consequence to your self, we have taken it into grave Consideration, and Opine, if a Man can be sure another will never draw upon him, (presuming upon his Ability by the sign of it) he lawfully may, but without this first Caution he'll sometimes be in danger of being kickt for a Coward, if not of losing his Life. Then as for the Tradesman, Custom has unluckily put him out of a Capacity of shewing that Mark of his Gentility; tho' 'twould be none of his Wisdom, since that don't permit a man to particularize him by such a Trifle.

Quest. 15. How shall a man that has none, or but little Ingenuity, and is incapable of bodily Exercises, poor and unfurnished with Books, employ his time better; excepting religious Duties?

Ans. There's no person so destitute of Friends but may borrow Books, if he's careful of 'em, and honestly returns 'em; tho' we believe a man of this Character need not trouble himself further than with History, Morality and practical Divinity, the first for his Diversion, and the two last to teach him his Duty, and this with Devotion will be sufficient to employ his time.

## Advertisements.

**T**He Second Volume of the French Book of Martyrs, or History of the Edict of Nantes, is now publisht in English, with her Majesties Royal Privilege, and ready to be delivered to the Subscribers upon the Terms mentioned in the Proposal, (notwithstanding this Volume is ten Sheets more than was at first promised) provided they send in their Receipts and second Payments to John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry. The Third and Fourth Volumes (for which no more Subscriptions will be taken in) are also preparing for the Press, and comprehend (with the two Volumes already published) all the Persecutions that have been in France from the beginning of the Reformation there, down to this present time.

**R**emarks on a late Discourse of William Lord Bishop of Derry, concerning the Inventions of Men in the Worship of God. By the Reverend John Boyle.

Printed for John Lawrence at the Angel, and John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry.

**M**An made Righteous by Christ's Obedience: Being two Sermons at Pinners-Hall with Enlargements, &c. Also some Remarks on Mr. Mather's Postscript, &c. By Daniel Williams. Printed for John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry.

**T**Here is in the Press the second Edition of Francis Bugge's Book, entitled *New Rome arraigned*, &c. shewing the Errours of the Quakers Doctrine which tend to overthrow the Christian Faith, to obstruct the Jews Conversion, to encourage Mahometism, and to pervert the right way of the Lord. To which is added ten Articles of the Christian Faith, Wrot by George

Keith. Sold by John Guillam Bookseller in Bishopsgate-street, London, and divers others.

**A** True Account of the Proceedings, Sense and Advice of the People called Quakers, at the Yearly Meeting of Faithful Friends and Brethren, begun in London on the 28th. of the third Month, 1694. and held by Adjournment unto the 11th. of the Month following, in order to put an end to the Divisions and Differences among some of the People called Quakers in America: To which is added an Account of the Proceedings of the yearly Meeting at Burlington, relating to the said Differences; shewing the Disharmony of the two said Meetings: As also some Queries to that Party of the yearly Meeting at London who gave the aforesaid Judgment. Price 4 d. stitched up in Blew Paper. Printed for R. Lewis, and are to be Sold by the Booksellers of London and Westminster.

**O**N Ludgate-Hill, next Door to the King's-Arms Tavern near Fleet-Bridge, any person may be furnished with a Water for taking away the Freckles, Pimples, Worms and Morpew in the Face, Elixir Salutis, Balsamum Vitæ, Tinctura Vitæ. An excellent Water and Ointment for the Eyes. Ointments for the Rickets, Burns, scalds, Wounds, Aches, Sprains, &c. Powders, Dentrifices, Elixers, Essences, Oils, Spirits, &c. For the easing and curing of most Distempers incident to humane Bodies. Prepared and Sold by B. L.

**W**Hereas Mrs. Elizabeth Kingsmans and Mary Daniels Sale of Miliners Goods was design'd to draw 6000 will but 5000 be drawn on Monday the 2d. July, where Tickets may be had untill the Time of drawing at the Blew-Anchor in Pater-Noster-Row.

**T**He Sale of Sterling Plate designed to be on the 27th of this instant in Charles-street, Covent-Garden, being not quite full, will on the 27th. of July next. The Tickets may be had of Mr. John Bowman at the Flower-de-Luce, near the New-Exchange in the Strand, Mr. Robert Cole at the Anchor over against St. Dunstan's-Church in Fleet-street, Mr. John Foden at the Golden-Falcon near Fetter-lane-end in Holborn, Mr. John Burningham at the Black-Raven in Newgate-street, Mr. Samuel Layfield at the White-Horse in Lombard-street, Mr. Edward Barham at Ratcliff-Cross, Mr. Andrew de Cayne at Bishopsgate, Mr. Makepeace Holloway at the Sign of the Cup in Leaden-hall-street near Aldgate, Mr. Moses Sykamore at the Star on St. Margaret's-Hill in Southwark, Goldsmiths; Mr. John Ward at the More-maid in Cheap-side, and at his Shop in Chester City during the Fair. Mr. Jonathan Millner in Popes-head-Alley near the Royal-Exchange, Mr. James Brindley at the Corner of Fetter-lane in Fleet-street, Mr. Henry Banes Merchant in the City of York, and Mr. Marshall Smith next Bedford gate in Charles-street, Covent-Garden, where the Tickets are to be drawn.

**E**Lixir Magnum Stomachicum: Or, the great Cordial Elixir for the Stomach; of a delicate Flavour, and pleasant bitterish Taste: Not Darging, but Cordial only; to be drank at any time, (but especially in a Morning) in any Liquor, as Ale, Tea, Mum, Canary, White-Wine, A Dram of Brandy, &c. It makes the best Purl in the World in Ale, and Purl Royal in Sack, and in Tea, &c. very pleasant and wholesome, giving each of them a fragrant smell and taste, far exceeding Purl made of Wormwood, which (being so hot and drying) spoils the Sighs, dulls the Brain, and dries up the Blood: This having the Quintessence of all the Ingredients of the bitter Draught (so much in use) in it, with many other excellent Stomachicks and Antiscorbuticks brought into so small a quantity, as that 30 or 40 Drops is a Dose; you may make it in an instant your self, in any of the aforesaid Liquors, but White-wine or Tea best, and it much surpasses the common Bitter Potion in pleasantness and virtue: This procures a good Appetite, helps Digestion and all Indispositions of the Stomach, or Sickness, Loathing, Nauseousness (especially after a Surfeit or hard Drinking) strengthening it wonderfully, expels all Wind, purifies the Blood, and destroys the Scourvy beyond any Medicine known, with 3 or 4 Virtues more mentioned in the Bills sold with it, as its excellent use for those that Travel by Sea or Land, &c. to which Bills I refer you, to be had Gratis at the places where 'tis sold. Price One Shilling each Bottle.

'Tis Sold by John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry; and at these Coffee-houses, viz. Symonds-Inn in Chancery-Lane, at Vigore's in the Old Pallace-Yard, Westminster, Victualling-Office at Tower-Hill, Man's at Charing-Cross, Essex at Whitechappel, North's in King-street by Guild-Hall, Richard's at Temple-bar, Smythers in Thames-street, Will's in Covent Garden, Blacketts at Spittle-fields, Wells at the Postern in Aldermanbury, John's in Fuller's Rents, Buckeridge's without Aldersgate, Hamet's on London-bridge, Brown's at Wapping Old stairs, John's by the Kings-bench, Smith's at Lambeth, by the Church, by Mr. W. Collet. Jun. near the Hermitage, Tobacco-nist; Mr. Levingston, Fruiterer at the Royal Exchange, and Tho. Howkins in George-yard in Lombard-street; the Author having appointed him only (beside himself) to Sell it wholesale, any Person wanting it to Dispose of or Sell again, may be there furnished, with Allowance for selling. 'Tis sold by some One Book seller in most of the Cities, and in many great Towns in England.

**L O N D O N** Printed for John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry. 1694.